

Dorking Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1905.

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Prepared in accordance with Sec. 14 of the Order of the Local Government Board dated 23rd March, 1891, Regulating the Duties of Medical Officers of Health.

DORKING :

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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT.

Area and Situation-1340 Acres, part of the Parish of Dorking.

	1881	1891	1901
Number of Inhabited Houses at Census ...	1212	1425	1619
Population at Census	6328	7132	7670
Number of Persons per House	5·2	5·0	4·74

Medical Officer's Report for the Year 1905.

I.—Population, Births, and Deaths.

POPULATION.—The population of the district in the middle of the year under review may be estimated at 7920, assuming that it has increased at the same rate since the Census, 1901, as it did during the preceding decade.

BIRTHS.—The Births registered in the district during the year were 177 in number, representing an annual Birth-rate of 22·3 per thousand of the estimated population, as against an average rate of 22·1 for the last ten years, and a rate of 27·2 for the year for England and Wales.

DEATHS.—The Deaths registered in the district during the year were 111 in number, of which 80 occurred in the town, 25 in the Workhouse Infirmary, 5 in the Cottage Hospital, and 1 in the “Woodhurst” Sanatorium. Of the 31 deaths in the institutions, 18 were those of persons belonging to Dorking, 9 of persons from parishes in the Rural District, and 4 of non-residents belonging to outside districts. In estimating the death-rate, the 13 deaths of persons belonging to other districts have to be deducted, and the death in the Brookwood Asylum of a patient from Dorking has to be added, giving 99 nett deaths, which represent an Annual Death-rate of 12·5 per thousand of the estimated population, as against an average of 14·4 for the previous ten years, and a rate of 15·2 for the year for England and Wales. Fifty-four deaths occurred among males, and 45 among females. All the deaths were certified by medical practitioners, with the exception of three, which were certified by the Coroner.

Four deaths were attributed to *Epidemic Diseases*, six to *Phthisis*, nineteen to *Bronchitis* and *Pneumonia*, ten to *Cancer*, eleven to *Diseases of the Heart*, four to *Old Age*, and six to *Cerebral Hæmorrhage* and *Hemiplegia*.

The deaths from *Cancer* in each of the five years, 1901 to 1905, numbered 7, 5, 7, 7, and 10 respectively, representing an average Annual Death-rate of 0·92 per thousand of the population. The distribution of the 36 deaths according to age and sex was as follows:—

Ages in years	25	35	45	55	65	75	All ages.
Male	1	—	—	2	7	4	14
Female	—	—	1	8	6	7	22

INFANT MORTALITY.—The deaths of Infants under one year were 24 in number and were at the rate of 136 per thousand registered births, as against an average rate of 96 for the previous ten years, and a rate of 128 for the year for England and Wales. One of the children, who died at the Infirmary, belonged to Dorking Rural parish, and of the other children, 15 were males and 8 were females. Eight of the deaths were due to Premature Birth and Defective Development, and 4 to Debility. The causes of death, classified according to the ages of the infants in weeks and months, will be found in the new Table, issued by the Local Government Board, on page 12. Inquests were held into the causes of three of the deaths.

The ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE for the year was 0·5 per thousand of the population.

II.—Infectious Diseases.

The district was remarkably free from Infectious disease, for, apart from Erysipelas, only nine notifications were received, a record equal to that of 1902.

SMALL POX.—No case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER.—One case was notified in April, two cases in two adjoining houses in September, and one case in a Training Home in December. Three of the patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.—Single cases were notified in May and September, and two cases in October. All the patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case was notified in July.

MEASLES caused one death in April.

WHOOPING COUGH caused one death in March.

DIARRHŒA caused the deaths of two infants in August, and the deaths of an infant, in September, and of man aged 79 years, in December, were ascribed to Enteritis.

No case of PUERPERAL FEVER was notified.

Of ERYSIPELAS eleven cases were notified, but there did not appear to be any connection between the cases, and none of them ended fatally.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS. Six specimens were examined at the Lister Institute, at the expense of the Council, for the detection of the Diphtheria Bacillus, with one positive and five negative results. No application was made for the examination of specimens for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus or for the Widal test for Enteric Fever.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES. The deaths from *Pulmonary Consumption* or *Phthisis* were six in number, and were at the rate of 0·76 per thousand of the population, as against an average rate of 1·08 for the preceding ten years. Four other deaths were ascribed to *General Tuberculosis*, *Tubercular Meningitis*, *Laryngeal Tuberculosis*, and *Abdominal Tuberculosis* respectively.

No application was made for the fumigation of rooms which had been occupied by patients suffering from Consumption.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL. No further steps were taken towards the erection of permanent brick buildings at the hospital site, but the Joint Board had under their consideration, at the end of the year, the question of providing additional ward accommodation, as the present buildings do not enable them to deal in a satisfactory manner with cases of more than one disease occurring at the same time. A letter was received from the Surrey County Council upon this matter, as they had received a representation with regard to the occurrence of some delay in the removal of a patient suffering from Diphtheria, owing to the lack of room in the Hospital.

The new Thresh's Disinfectors, which had been provided in the previous year, was brought into use, and the Committee undertook the stoving of articles infected by any disease in which disinfection was desirable.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever and four cases of Diphtheria from the Urban District, and ten cases of Scarlet Fever, and four cases of Diphtheria from the Rural District, were removed to the Hospital. The first fatal case since the opening of the Hospital at the beginning of 1903 occurred in December, when a patient from Coldharbour died of Diphtheria on the day after admission.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. In April, the Council received notice that the Local Government Board had dismissed their appeal against the Order issued by the Surrey County Council under the Isolation Hospital Acts, including this district in a Hospital District for the provision of accommodation for cases of Small Pox.

III.—Summary of other proceedings which were taken under the Sanitary Acts, etc.

1.—**HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.** In response to the application made by the Council in the previous year for permission to lease, for the erection of workmen's dwellings, a portion of the land at the Outfall Works which cannot be utilised for the treatment of sewage, the Local Government Board informed the Council that the land could be leased or disposed of under Section 74 (2) of the Housing of the Working Classes, 1890, and, after a plan of the site had been submitted to them, they stated that they would raise no objection to the proposal. The Council, however, have not yet received any application which they are able to accept.

I made inspections of a number of houses in Church Street, Cotmandene, and elsewhere, and referred the defects, which I discovered, to the Sanitary Inspector, who informs me that nearly all had been remedied by the end of the year, and that those still outstanding are receiving his attention. I also re-inspected cottages in other parts of the district, which I had visited previously, and found that various improvements had been made. There are several groups of old cottages in the district which require frequent inspection.

Flushing apparatus was provided for 18 hand-flushed closets during the year, and galvanised iron ashbins were provided for 22 houses, under notice from the Council.

2.—**THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES** on the Register are six in number; they were inspected and found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition, but several minor improvements were carried out at the Inspector's request.

3.—**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.** The one Common Lodging House was visited and found to be kept in a fair condition.

4.—**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.** No additions were made to the Register during the year; there are three cowkeepers and eight purveyors who have dairies and milkshops in the district, and, in addition, eight persons whose farms are in the Rural District, are registered as purveyors of milk. A sewer was extended in the Westcott Road to take the drainage from the premises of one of the cowkeepers.

5.—**HOUSE REFUSE** was removed weekly by the Council's staff, under the supervision of the Surveyor.

6.—**HOUSE DRAINAGE.** The Surveyor informs me that the drains of 27 houses were connected with the sewers during the year.

7.—**WORKS OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.** In February the Council received from Mr. Strachan, C.E., plans and estimates for laying a sewer to take the drainage of five houses in Pixham Lane. The scheme provided for the raising of the sewage by ejectors, as the level would not permit it to flow by gravitation to the Works. The Local Government Board sanctioned the borrowing of a sum of £1500 for the purpose, after an enquiry had been held in April by Major Norton, R.E., and the work had nearly been completed by the end of the year.

The Council laid a 9-in. sewer to take the drainage of farm-premises in the Westcott Road after an agreement had been made with the owner as to the proportionate amount of the expense to be borne by him.

The condition of the sewers was examined continuously throughout the year.

No further progress was made with the scheme for re-modelling the method of treatment at the Outfall Works, pending the work of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, who have fitted up a laboratory, tanks, contact beds, etc., at the Works, for carrying out a series of experiments to determine the relative value of methods of treatment of domestic sewage. In the meantime the double-contact clinker beds have been improved, to treat about a third of the daily flow, so as to relieve the land, which has been levelled and trenched. The dry-weather flow of sewage was gauged and found to be about 200,000 gallons daily.

Early in the year a complaint as to the growth of fungus in the bed of the river was received from the Thames Conservancy Board, who stated that their Inspector had reported that the growth was probably caused by the sewage effluent, a sample of which had proved

unsatisfactory upon examination. It was then found that a leakage from a carrier was allowing a portion of the sewage to pass into the effluent drains without undergoing final purification on the land. The leakage was stopped and an inspection of the bed of the river in the autumn shewed that the fungus had disappeared.

8.—NEW BUILDINGS. The Surveyor informs me that 20 sets of plans of new buildings were submitted to the Council for approval under the Bye-laws, as against 16 in the previous year.

9.—WATER SUPPLY. Quarterly examinations of samples of water from each of the three sources of supply of the Dorking Water Company were continued by Dr. Rideal, who reported in June that the water from the “Redlands” was of a brownish tint, probably owing to the presence of some excess of vegetable matter, and that the sample from the “Rookery,” although it gave good results otherwise, shewed the presence of a few algae, upon microscopical examination. The samples from the Station Road bore-hole, which now forms the main supply, were found to be of good quality in all respects on each occasion, and the report upon the samples taken in October stated that all the waters were of high quality both chemically and bacteriologically. Mr. Dawes, the Manager of the Water Works, informs me that the whole of the material in the filters at the “Redlands” was taken out and washed in the summer.

10.—BATHS. The Surveyor informs me that the attendance at the Swimming Bath during the year was 9828, and the number of persons using the hot baths was 910.

IV.—Factories and Workshops.

A tabulated report upon the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in the form given below, is now required by the Home Office.

I visited the bakehouses and the larger workshops, and the Sanitary Inspector informs me that he paid periodical visits to all the premises on the Register, and that at the end of the year all the factories and workshops were in a good condition both structurally and from a sanitary point of view

A number of workshops were limewashed at the request of the Sanitary Inspector, but apart from this, very few defects required attention.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, is in force in the district. In only one establishment are more than 20 persons known to be employed, and this is well provided with sanitary conveniences.

There is one underground bakehouse in the district. The structural alterations for the improvement of the lighting and the ventilation, which the Council required to be carried out before they granted a certificate in 1903, have rendered the bakehouse suitable in all respects. Another bakehouse was repaired, and flushing apparatus was provided for a hand-flushed closet in a third case.

No lists of homeworkers were received, nor did I find women or young persons employed in any workshop in which no abstract of the Act was exhibited.

I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	—	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	—	—
Workplaces	—	—	—
Homeworkers' Premises	—	—	—
Total	21	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient	—	—	—
	unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories	—
<i>Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—</i>	
Certificates granted during the year	—
In use at the end of the year	One
Homework :—List of Outworkers received	—
<i>Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—</i>	
Workshop Bakehouses	9
Workshop Laundries	5
Other Workshops	46
Total number of workshops on Register	60

J. WILLIAMSON, M.D.

THE LINES,
EPSOM,
February, 1906.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the year ending December 31st, 1905.

Number of complaints received in writing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	340
Number of Houses at which Nuisances were discovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Number of Nuisances remedied without being reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Number of Houses where Nuisances were remedied after report	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of formal Notices served for the abatement of Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Number of times that legal proceedings were taken for the abatement of Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Particulars of Work done by Owners or Occupiers, in compliance with Notice :

Number of filthy houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Number of damp unwholesome houses provided with eaves' gutters or rainwater pipes, or otherwise repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of houses closed as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses in which overcrowding was abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of houses for which efficient ventilation was provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of water-closets provided to old houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of privies converted into water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of water-closets for which cisterns and water were provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of houses at which the drains were cleansed, laid, or relaid, ventilated, trapped, or disconnected from the house pipes or rain-water pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of houses at which dustbins or ashpits were provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of slaughter houses cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of premises from which animals, improperly kept, were removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of offensive accumulations, &c., removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Foods:—Number of seizures as unfit for human consumption —

WATER SUPPLY:—Number of samples sent to the Medical Officer of Health for Analysis... —
 Number of houses supplied by owners with water from the Waterworks after notice under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1875 —
 Number of wells closed or abandoned, as being polluted —

G. SOMERS MATHEWS.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.					Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1895	7,355	174	23·5	9	52	100	13·5	23	11	2	91	12·3		
1896	7,410	153	20·6	16	105	108	14·5	18	12	2	98	13·1		
1897	7,465	179	23·9	13	73	107	14·3	22	14	1	94	12·5		
1898	7,520	164	21·8	30	183	150	19·9	25	12	1	139	18·4		
1899	7,675	169	22·3	25	148	124	16·3	22	13	5	116	15·3		
1900	7,630	174	22·8	15	86	126	16·5	27	18	3	111	14·5		
1901	7,685	162	21·0	11	68	135	17·3	35	17	5	123	16·0		
1902	7,740	170	22·0	20	118	109	14·1	24	5	6	110	14·2		
1903	7,800	175	22·4	16	91	123	15·8	32	12	5	116	15·0		
1904	7,860	164	20·9	16	98	119	15·2	36	19	1	101	12·7		
Averages for years 1895-1904	7,620	168	22·1	16	96	120	15·7	26	13	3	110	14·4		
1905	7,920	177	22·3	24	136	111	14·0	31	13	1	99	12·5		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District are the Workhouse, the Cottage Hospital, and the “Woodhurst” Sanatorium.

The death in column 11 occurred in the Brookwood County Asylum.

Area of District in acres } exclusive of area } covered by water)	1,329.	Total population at all ages.....	7,670	At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses.....	1,619	
		Average number of persons per house.....	4·74	

The Union Workhouse is situated within the District.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT IN 1905.							Number of cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	4	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Membranous croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	11	...	...	...	1	9	1	...
Scarlet fever	4	...	...	3	1	...	...	3
Typhus fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	20	...	...	6	3	10	1	7

TABLE III.—Shewing the number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Zymotic Diseases and from Phthisis, and the number of cases notified, in each of the years 1893—1905.

Year.	Small Pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Diarrhoea.	Measles.	Whoop'g Cough.	Phthisis
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.
1893	5	1	9	...	11	2	...	...	...	3	1	9
1894	...	...	18	...	13	1	3	1	1	...	5	8
1895	...	...	13	...	9	2	1	...	...	1	1	8
1896	1	...	11	...	15	1	2	1	3	...	6	12
1897	...	...	...	...	24	5	2	2	1	...	1	10
1898	...	...	1	...	44	5	3	...	5	3	3	4
1899	...	...	8	...	26	3	2	...	9	...	...	7
1900	...	...	13	...	23	9	1	...	2	...	2	9
1901	...	...	31	...	17	2	1	...	2	2	...	11
1902	1	1	3	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	4	6
1903	...	...	24	...	2	...	6	1	...	...	3	9
1904	...	...	15	...	2	...	3	...	5	7	1	6
1905	...	...	4	...	4	...	1	...	2	1	1	6

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Un- der 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- w'ds.	
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Fever { Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
{ Enteric Fever .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
{ Other Continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Diarrhoea	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	..
Enteritis	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Other Septic Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Phthisis	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	2	...	...	1	1	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	...	...	...	...	2	8	2
Bronchitis	12	1	...	...	...	4	7	2
Pneumonia	7	2	...	...	...	2	3	3
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Cirrhosis of Liver }	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	..
Veneral Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Premature Birth	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	..
Heart Diseases	11	...	...	...	...	4	7	3
Accidents	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
All other Causes	31	8	...	...	2	3	18	16
ALL CAUSES	99	23	2	...	3	25	46	31

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks & Months under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Common Infectious Diseases...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœal Diseases	Diarrhœa, all forms ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
	Enteritis (not Tuberculous) }	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth ...	3	1	1	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Congenital Defects ...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }	...	...	1	..	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases }	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Suffocation, overlaying...		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes ...		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
All Causes : Certified...		5	2	2	...	9	3	3	1	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	23

Births in the Year, 177.

Population (Estimated to middle of 1905), 7920.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 99.